



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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Senate Bill 949  
An Act Improving Data Security and Agency Effectiveness

Testimony of Mark Raymond  
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Government Administration & Elections Committee  
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Good Afternoon Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith and members of the Government Administration & Elections Committee.

My name is Mark Raymond, I am the Chief Information Officer for the State of Connecticut, working within the Department of Administrative Services. I am here to testify in favor of Senate Bill 949, which is before you today.

In a world of ever increasing complexity, we have few options to help us make better decisions. Data - good quality, up to date, effective data - is our primary lever to improve our decision making. I believe this bill significantly strengthens our ability to protect citizens' information and to use data across the state to improve outcomes for our citizens.

Today, we have very limited data sharing across agencies. The reason for this is simple: Agencies are responsible for their specific programs, clients and systems. The day to day operation of the agencies is the primary responsibility. With reduced resources, the focus is often placed upon those items that are under our direct control.

This focus, however, prevents us from understanding the broader relationships within our respective missions. Data and data analytics can help us uncover these hidden relationships and improve outcomes. I will describe two specific examples from around the country where jurisdictions are using data in innovative ways to improve quality of life.

Since late 2013, the State of Indiana has been applying data sharing and analytics to a difficult problem in their state related to infant mortality rates. They utilized data from 5 different agencies and 4 additional public sources to identify a lack of pre-natal care as the primary predictive risk factor in 65% of infant deaths. Additionally it was

uncovered that while only 5% of Medicaid births share this risk factor, those births contribute 35% of all birth related expenses. The state has begun intervention programs to begin to address this factor and change the outcome.

Also in 2013, the New York City Fire Department began sharing data and applying analytics to improve outcomes in fighting fires. What they found by looking at broad amounts of data is that older buildings, involved in on-going foreclosures and those with active tax liens are more likely to go up in flames. The next generation system will bring additional risk factors into the equation and will help to correlate types of buildings, trash violations and noise complaints to identify those buildings for inspection that have higher risks of fires. This insight helps to focus precious resources on those areas that are of the highest risk.

These two examples are part of a growing trend to utilize data that we already have in ways to more efficiently deliver services.

Both of these examples required executive sponsorship and leadership to break through organizational barriers. We will also require new skills in technology and data sciences that are not readily found in state service to gain these efficiencies.

Section 1 of this bill updates the legal and contractual framework of the state relating to our citizens' data as we look to leverage newer technology. These improvements align the growing need to protect data with the changing technology landscape.

Section 4 of this bill provides the framework to apply data to solve our most difficult problems in a centralized and organized manner, and I encourage the Committee and the legislature to support it.